Something About the Chinese Language. Chinese is a queer language. All its words are only one syllable long. But the sounds in the Chinese language are not very many, some 465 at most, and their written language contains about 8,000 pictures, each representing a thing or idea. And these pictures must be committed to memory. This is hard work, and not even the wisest Chinese professor can learn them all. But now comes a difficulty. For, of course, where there are so many words and so few sounds, many different words have to be called by the same sound. How then are they to tell, when several different things have exactly the

same name, which of them is meant? We have such words. For instance, there is Bill, the name of a boy; and bill, the beak of a bird; there is bill, an old weapon, and bill, a piece of money; there is bill, an article over which legislatures debate, and bill, a claim for a payment of money; besides bills of exchange, bills of lading, and so forth. But Chinese is full of such words of a single syllable, yen, for instance, which, like bill, means many very different things. So they choose a number of little pictures, and agree that these shall be used as "keys." Each "key" means that the sign or signs near which it stood belonged to some large, general set of things, like the things of the vegetable mineral, or animal kingdom, forests, mines; or seas, air, or water, or persons, like gods or men. It was like the game called throwing light, in which you gues the article by narrowing down the field until certain what it is.

But there Chinese writing stopped short thousands of years ago. There it is to-day. There are now 214 of these "keys" and, by intense application, Chinamen learn to use their method with surpising quickness and success.-St. Nicholas.

A Free and Fearless Bill-Poster.

The New York bill-poster has, from time immemorial, been a free and fearless rover of the highways. In the days when Harry Paulding, now dead and gone, had his headquarters in a Park Row cellar and drank champagne as a beverage, with a paste barrel for a throne, these pill-posters' wars were incessant. A truce was called to one only to have another begin. At first Paulding had a monopoly of the business. He made a mint of money and tyrannized the whole community that had to deal with him. Then opposition started up, and he set to work to fight it. The streets were full of war and the police courts kept busy fining the contending factions. Now and then one would com-mit a murderous assault, and on at least one occasion that I recall a murder was scored against the adhesive guild.

A prominent theatrical manager having got into a quarrel with Paulding woke one morning to find the whole front of his residence, from cornice to pavement, covered with show bills. Even the windows were pasted over, and it cost him a handsome sum to clear the defilement away. In another instance, Paulding's brigade pasted the sidewalks of Broadway and Fifth avenue with dodgers that did not wear off for a week. When his men were in a merry mood they made nothing of decorating the backs of private carriages with advertising paper, and once they adorned a church front with the bills of a burlesque troupe. -New York News "Babble."

He Wanted To Be a Reporter.

Time and again the assertion has been printed that George W. Vanderbilt and I do not imagine that readers generally gave entire credence to it. Nevertheless, it was true. George is the youngest son of the late William H. Vanderbilt, and a sharer in the estate to the extent of about \$30,000,000. At the time of his effort to get into journalism he was only an heir prospective, and he had strong desire to do something on his own account. "I had an idea that I could become a writer," he said, a few days ago, "and I believed that there was no better schooling to be had than as a reporter. I fancied that I would like the work, too. I went down to The Sun office and talked with Mr. Dana about it, and he said he would give me a place on the staff on the same footing as the other reporters. That was what I wanted. But father opposed it. He believed I wouldn't get a fair, square opportunity-that the public would be censorious of my work, no matter how careful my employers might be to deal with me exactly as with the others. So I gave it up, and it is too late now."

What he meant, as I construed it, was that, having acquired an enormous for

tune, it is too late, for him to accomplish anything else. He has a marked literary bent, however, and is apt to write a book sooner or later. George Vanderbilt is the wealthiest bachelor in America.—New York Cor. Galveston News.

A Widow's Extraordinary Devotion. "If you want to learn what extravagance is," said an employe of a Chicago cemetery, "just look into the monument busi-ness. Some of these stone men are very sleek talkers, and if they once get hold of a man, he is, as a rule, a goner. The desire to pay respect to the memory of deceased relatives by erecting handsome monuments is a laudable one, and it is also quite general, but sometimes it finds most extravagant expression. For instance, there is a shaft in our cemetery erected by a widow over her husband's grave which costs about \$450, and which the poor woman is gradually paying for out of her earnings at the wash-tub."-

Chicago Herald. Decline in the Ostrich Feather Trade. The ostrich feather trade in Tripoli de-clined so rapidly last year as to eventually end in a complete collapse, and the conse-quences it entailed proved disastrous to all connected with the business and more or less prejudicially affected other branches of trade. As a result, trade with the in-terior of Africa is said to be suspended. people hesitating to risk their diminished capital in enterprises to remote parts of the continent before some signs of ameli-oration in the feather trade manifest themselves, and as yet there are none such .-Chicago Times.

How Cut Glass Is Produced. Cut glass is produced by first grinding the surface with wheels of stone, then with wheels of iron, covered with sharp sand and emery, finally with brush wheels covered with putty, a small stream of water in each instance kept running on the glass to reduce the heat of friction.

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